

OUR MEANS OF DEFENCE.

THE WAR SHIPS NOW BUILDING TO BE KEPT READY FOR COMPLETION.

But Gen. Miles says that there is not a City on either coast that could not be attacked by an enemy from the sea. New York, Boston, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, and San Francisco are practically defenceless until the fortifications already begun are completed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The return of Secretary Herbert from New York to-day caused inquiry to be made in his regard by the department in dealing with the North Atlantic fleet, but probably acting under instructions from the President, the Secretary declined to affirm or deny the reports that it would be held in Hampton Roads for the present.

Short Session of the House. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The House was in session but twenty minutes to-day, and transacted little business.

THE LONDON SHIPPING WORLD SPEAKS FOR THE BRITISH TRADERS. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The State Department has received the latest issues of one of the most important marine journals, the Shipping World, in which several papers are devoted to adverse criticism of the English politicians who have denied the boundary dispute.

VENUEZUELA'S OFFICIAL MAP OF THE BOUNDARY DISPUTE. It is alleged, has been held back by delay in the necessary work of the navy.

NEW WALLACE UP AND DANCE. He is going to see if he can raise a Regiment or Brigade in Indiana.

FINNHOOD LEE WOULD BE THERE. He Doesn't Look for War, but if it Comes He Will Draw His Sabre.

GEN. HOWARD SAYS STAND FAST. He Endorses the President's Message, Although He Does Not Want War.

NEW TORPEDO BOATS SOON TO BE STARTED. NEWPORT, R. I., Dec. 20.—The laying down of the keel for torpedo boat No. 9 at Bristol is expected to begin very soon.

VENUEZUELA'S MAP. The Secretary of the Territory in Dispute.

VANDERVOORT'S IDEA. He Sees an Anti-Populist Active in the Venezuelan Question.

Chairman of the committee concurred. It was useless, he said, to deny that this was a very grave and important subject; but in its consideration Senators did not talk about war.

It was to be no reason at present to suppose that war was to be precipitated. The American people would not shut it, however, if it became inevitable. All Senators, he thought, concurred with the President in his opinion that war was to be avoided.

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At San Francisco the army has mounted one twelve-inch gun, three dynamite guns and several mortars, but this defence seems insignificant when compared to the extent of the fortification designed for its protection by the authorities.

At Boston there have been placed some mortars, but little or no progress has been made in the direction of actual land defenses.

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THE SECRETARY OF OUR PARIS EMBASSY TALKS OF THE VENEZUELAN CRISIS. PARIS, Dec. 20.—The Gil Blas publishes a report of an interview with Henry Vignaud, First Secretary of the United States Embassy, on President Cleveland's message.

THE GULF VOICES AGAINST WAR. NEW ENGLAND FREE TRADERS FRATRE BAYARD MR. GARRISON'S LAMENT. BOSTON, Dec. 20.—About one hundred members attended the first banquet of the season of the New England Free Trade League at the United States Hotel this evening.

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